PFLAG
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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Keeping Families Strong

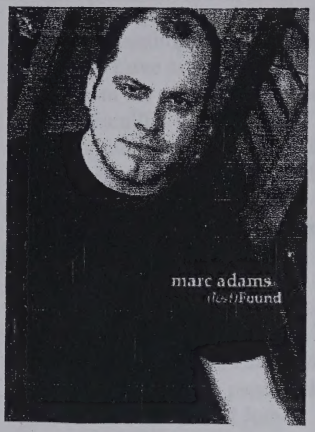
August, 2005

Author and Advocate Marc Adams to Speak at August PFLAG Meeting

Seattle, WA - Marc Adams, author of the Lambda Literary Award finalist and Silver Pen Award recipient autobiography, The Preacher's Son, will speak at the Colorado Springs PLAG meeting on August 16, 2005.

The Preacher's Son chronicles his life growing up gay as the son of a fundamentalist Baptist minister in rural Pennsylvania where he endured a childhood of physical, emotional and spiritual abuse. Aware that he was gay be the age of 7, he struggled through religious schools and reparative therapy. He attended—by choice—Jerry Falwell's Liberty University where he also was employed for 3 ½ years in the student recruiting/university relations department. His book articulately reveals life at Liberty and the struggle to conform to the standards for which he would have been a martyr. He shares about his years as an ex-gay. It culminates with his coming to terms with being gay and his coming out to his fundamentalist Christian family.

In his talk to PFLAG, Adams will share some of his life's story, share from his new book (lost)Found, and talk about HeartStrong, Inc., the non-profit organization he co-founded. HeartStrong, Inc., is a nonprofit educational organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered students of religious schools, colleges and universities. It is the only such outreach of its kind in the world. (Its website is at www.heartstrong.org.)



Award-winning Author Marc Adams

Since its release at the end of 1996, The Preacher's Son has garnered praise from bookstores, reviewers, the mainstream press and the gay and lesbian media. Not to be discounted, Adams says, are the thousands of letters and emails that he has received from men and women, gay and straight, who have read his books and found themselves changed.

"Every time I open my mailbox and find another letter, I am incredibly humbled. I knew I had a responsibility to share my story. I just didn't expect to get such emotional and heart breaking letters. I feel such an awesome responsibility when I read about how what I've shared has

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AUGUST PFLAG CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday
August 16, 2005

7:00 P.M.

Guest Speaker:

Marc Adams

Author of
The Preacher's Son

Small group discussion to follow

The Dwelling Place
508 North Tejon Street

Everyone is welcome

PFLAG to Sponsor Film at 6th Annual Lavender Film Festival Sept 16-18

PFLAG will sponsor a film titled "Loggerheads" at the 6th annual Lavender Film Festival at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center on September 17th. Centered on Mother's Day, "Loggerheads" beautifully depicts the lives of conservative characters who, after society has pushed them in the wrong direction, are ultimately driven by their hearts to deal with the repercussions of their past actions.

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Event to Help Gay & Lesbian Couples Get Their Finances In Order

Who knew? If you are a straight married couple there are 1,143 federal laws that protect your personal finances. But since there are more than 10,000 gay and lesbian couples in Colorado for whom Elton John and David Furnish or Melissa Etheridge and Tammy Lynn Michaels are more in line with their idea of a married couple, Sheryl Garrett, Certified Financial Planner and co-author of Money Without Matrimony, will be in Colorado Springs on Thursday, August 25th at the Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado to discuss the unique personal finance challenges they face.

According to Ms. Garrett, the central personal finance question on all gay and lesbian couple's minds should be: If something happens to me today, what happens to my house, clothes, Madonna CDs, and autographed poster of Liza Minnelli? Ms. Garrett can help couples start asking the right questions to be sure that they financially protect themselves and each other. For more information on Sheryl Garrett and her book, visit http://www.moneywithoutmatrimony.com

For more information about the event, email Denisa Tova at denisa@dsadvisors.com.

Help wanted: Liberal Retail sales
The Liberal Store- a long time supporter of progressive causes in Colo Springs, is looking for someone to expand its retail operations in the Springs 20-40 hours per week.

For more information contact: Gary103@EvolveFISH.com

PFLAG Statement on Tennessee Teen's Release from "Ex-Gay Camp"

July 26, 2005 – Washington, D.C. – As Zach Stark, the Tennessee teen who recently gained national attention after blogging his fears of being sent to Love in Action, is released from the program this week, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) calls for an ongoing and substantive discussion about the effects of "reparative therapy" on young people and their families

"As families who have faced these very issues in our own lives, we must give Zach and his family the space and privacy they need to deal with this situation," said Jody Huckaby, PFLAG's executive director. "We also must insist, as allies and advocates for our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) loved ones, that 'reparative therapy' programs are not allowed to prosper unchallenged at the expense of our family members and friends."

The "reparative therapy" industry uses disproved medical theories to "cure" GLBT persons and preys upon those in pain and confusion about matters of sexual orientation. Their claims and methods have been roundly denounced by the American Medical Association (AMA), American Psychiatric Association (APA) and other medical professionals.

PFLAG applauds greater scrutiny of "reparative therapy", "conversion therapy" or "ex-gay" programs. Because of the attention surrounding Zach's story, the Tennessee Department of Health began an investigation and notified the unlicensed Love in Action that it was functioning illegally by claiming to offer therapy and could face prosecution by the district attorney.

"Ultimately we want Zach to be who he is and we accept whatever decision he makes," said Dr. Arnold Drake, president of PFLAG Memphis. "We also want Zach and his family to know that we've been through this before and we are ready and able to support them."

Lavender Film Festival (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)
Under the direction of Alma Cremonesi and her devoted group of volunteers, the annual Lavender Film Festival brings the best of recent gay and lesbian-themed films to Colorado Springs.

The opening night will celebrate Spain's new law embracing gay marriage with a gala reception, welcome by Richard Skorman and the screening of "Unconscious", a Spanish feature film (2004), set in Barcelona in 1913, in Spanish with subtitles.

With the recent demise of the Denver festival, this has become the longest-running gay and lesbian film festival in Colorado. Donations are tax deductible. Sponsorships are available starting at $50.

Full Festival passes, which include 8 features, 8 short films, two documentaries, three parties and a free continental breakfast on Sunday, are available for a special low price of $60 if purchased before August 15. Shorter passes and individual tickets are also available. Call (719) 38-MOVIE or go to www.pplff.org.